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Page 8

What has worked to fight climate change? Policies where someone pays for polluting, study finds

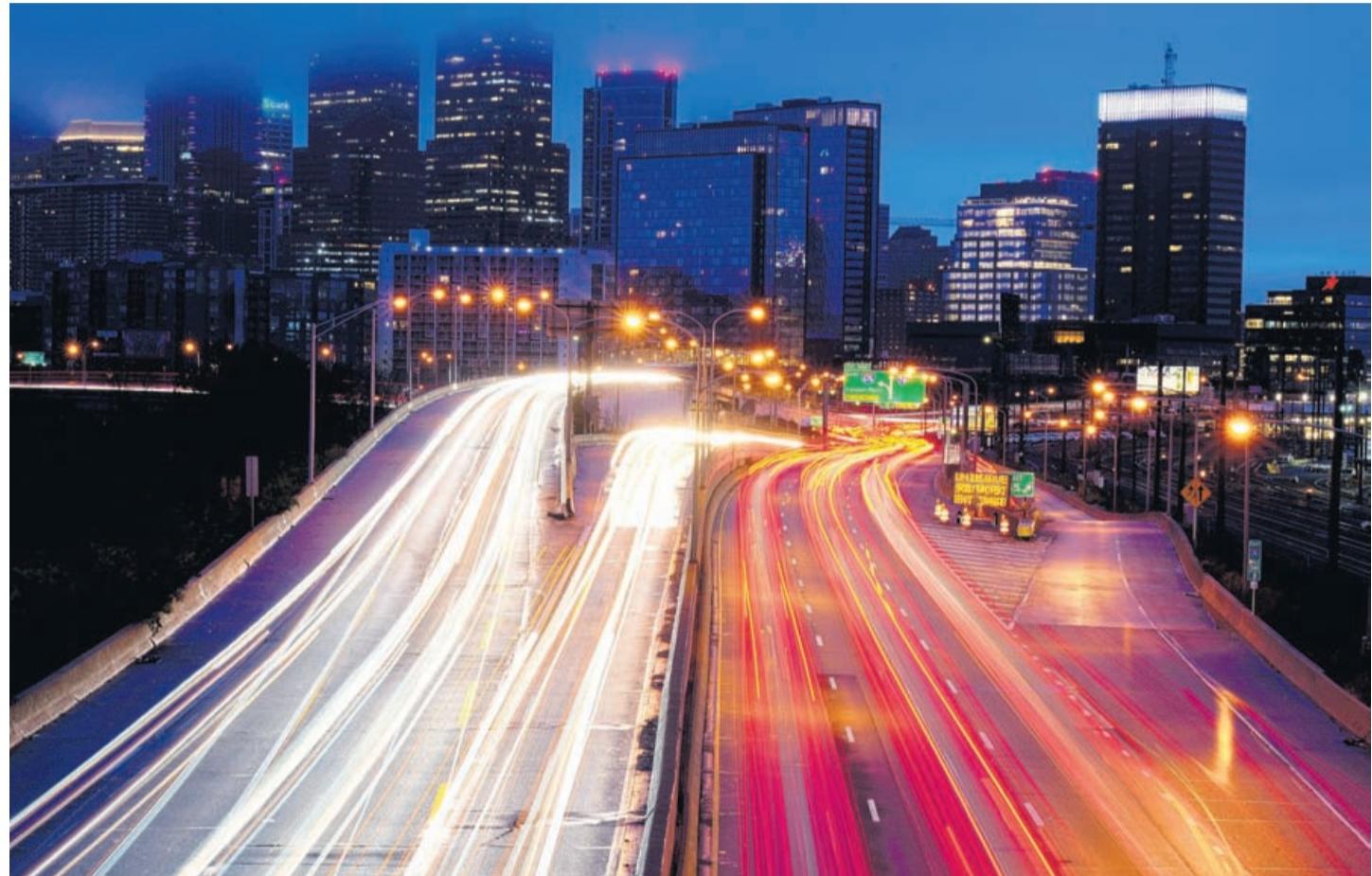
By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—To figure out what really works when nations try to fight climate change, researchers looked at 1,500 ways countries have tried to curb heat-trapping gases. Their answer: Not many have done the job. And success often means someone has to pay a price, whether at the pump or elsewhere.

In only 63 cases since 1998, did researchers find policies that resulted in significant cuts of carbon pollution, a new study in Thursday's journal *Science* found.

Moves toward phasing out fossil fuel use and gas-powered engines, for example, haven't worked by themselves, but they are more successful when combined with some kind of energy tax or additional cost system, study authors concluded in an exhaustive analysis of global emissions, climate policies and laws.



Continued on Page 2

Vehicles move along Interstate 76 ahead of the Thanksgiving Day holiday in Philadelphia, Nov. 22, 2023.

Associated Press

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What has worked to fight climate change? Policies where someone pays for polluting, study finds

Continued from Front

"The key ingredient if you want to reduce emissions is that you have pricing in the policy mix," said study co-author Nicolas Koch, a climate economist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany. "If subsidies and regulations come alone or in a mix with each other, you won't see major emission reductions. But when price instruments come in the mix like a carbon energy tax then they will deliver those substantial emissions reductions."

The study also found that what works in rich nations doesn't always work as well in developing ones.

Still, it shows the power of the purse when fighting climate change, something economists always suspected, said several outside policy experts, climate scientists and economists who praised the study.

"We won't crack the climate problem in wealthier nations until the polluter pays," said Rob Jackson, a Stanford University climate scientist and author of the book *Clear Blue Sky*. "Other policies help, but nibble around the edges." "Carbon pricing puts the onus on the owners and products causing the climate crisis," Jackson said in an email.

A great example of what works is in the electricity sector in the United Kingdom, Koch said. That country in-



An offshore wind farm is visible from the beach in Hartlepool, England, Nov. 12, 2019.

Associated Press

stituted a mix of 11 different policies starting in 2012, including a phaseout of coal and a pricing scheme involving emission trading, which he said nearly halved emissions — "a huge effect."

Of the 63 success stories, the biggest reduction was seen in South Africa's building sector, where a combination of regulation, subsidies and labeling of appliances cut emissions nearly 54%.

The only success story in the United States was in transportation. Emissions dropped 8% from 2005 to 2011 thanks to a mix of fuel standards — which amount to regulation — and subsidies.

Yet even the policy tools that seem to work still barely put a dent in ever-rising carbon dioxide emissions. Overall,

the 63 successful instances of climate policies trimmed 600 million to 1.8 billion metric tons of the heat-trapping gas, the study found. Last year the world spewed 36.8 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide while burning fossil fuels and making cement. If every major country somehow learned the lesson of this analysis and enacted the policies that work best, it would only shrink the United Nations "emissions gap" of 23 billion metric tons of all greenhouse gases by about 26%, the study found. The gap is the difference between how much carbon the world is on track to put in the air in 2030 and the amount that would keep warming at or below internationally agreed upon levels.

"It basically shows we have to do a better job," said Koch, who is also head of the policy evaluation lab at the Mercator Research Institute in Berlin. Niklas Hohne at Germany's New Climate Institute, who wasn't part of the study said: "The world really needs to make a step change, move into emergency mode and make the impossible possible."

Koch and his team looked at emissions and efforts to reduce them in 41 countries between 1998 and 2022 — so it doesn't include the United States' nearly \$400 billion in climate-fighting spending package passed two years ago as a cornerstone of President Joe Biden's environmental policy — and logged 1,500 different policy actions.

They bunched the policies in four broad categories — pricing, regulations, subsidies and information — and analyzed four distinct sectors of the economy: electricity, transportation, buildings and industry.

In what Koch called "the reverse causal approach," the team looked for emission drops of 5% or more in different sectors of countries' economies and then figured out what caused them with help of observations and machine learning. Researchers compared emissions to similar nations as control groups and accounted for weather and other factors, Koch said. The team created a statistically transparent approach that others can use to update or reproduce it, including an interactive website where users can choose nations and economic sectors to see what's worked. And it could eventually be applied to the 2022 Biden climate package, he said. That package was heavy on subsidies.

John Sterman, a management professor at MIT Sloan Sustainability Institute who wasn't part of the research, said politicians find it easier to pass policies that subsidize and promote low-carbon technologies. He said that's not enough.

"It's also necessary to discourage fossil fuels by pricing them closer to their full costs, including the costs of the climate damage they cause," he said. □



U.S. Postal Service delivery vehicles are parked outside a post office in Boys Town, Neb., Aug. 18, 2020.

Associated Press

By DAVID SHARP
Associated Press
The U.S. Postal Service wants to save \$3 billion annually on changes that

reflect its greater reliance on streamlined regional networks — while retaining local mail delivery times of one to three days and

USPS proposes changes to save \$3B per year, starting in 2025

track some delivery schedules with greater precision. Election mail won't be affected, officials said.

The proposal, announced Thursday, would adjust mail delivery times while maintaining a commitment to a maximum five-day delivery for the flagship "Ground Advantage" nationwide and a maximum three-day delivery for local first-class mail.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said the changes to

take place next year are necessary to "enable us to operate more efficiently and reliably, grow our business and give us a chance for a viable future" after an 80% drop in first-class mail since 1997 and a corresponding growth in packages. All told, the Postal Service has amassed more than \$87 billion in losses from 2007 through 2020.

Details were unveiled by the Postal Service ahead of a Sept. 5 meeting in which

the proposed changes will be discussed with stakeholders before being submitted to the Postal Regulatory Commission.

Election mail and holiday shipments won't be affected because the proposed changes would not take place until the next calendar year, officials said. Medications also should continue to be delivered at their current speed, or faster, under the proposal, officials said. □

From cybercrime to terrorism, FBI director says America faces many elevated threats 'all at once'

By MICHAEL GOLDBERG

Associated Press

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn.

(AP) — The country is facing heightened threats from many corners at a time when law enforcement agencies are struggling, FBI Director Christopher Wray said in an exclusive interview, adding that he is "hard pressed to think of a time in my career where so many different kinds of threats are all elevated at once."

Wray spoke Wednesday with The Associated Press while visiting the Minneapolis field office to talk about partnerships between law enforcement agencies and also with other entities. His remarks come as the FBI confronts heightened concerns over terrorism, both domestic and international, as well as Chinese espionage and intellectual property theft and foreign election interference.

"I worry about the combination of that many threats being elevated at once, with the challenges facing the men and women in law enforcement more generally," Wray said at the office in the suburb of Brooklyn Center. "And the one thing that I think helps bridge those two challeng-



FBI Director Christopher Wray answers questions during an interview, Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024, in Brooklyn Center, Minn.

Associated Press

es is partnerships. That's how we get through. It is by all working together."

Wray's assessment of an elevated threat landscape is consistent with alarm bells he has sounded for months. Soon after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas in Israel, Wray began warning that the rampage could serve as an inspiration to militants, "the likes of which we haven't seen since ISIS launched its so-called caliphate years

ago."

The FBI has also scrambled to deal with security concerns related to the United States' southern border, with officials revealing in June that eight people from Tajikistan with suspected ties to the Islamic State group were arrested and were being held on immigration violations.

Officials are also dealing with the specter of foreign election interference. The

FBI and other federal agencies announced Monday that Iran was responsible for a hack targeting the Trump campaign and for an attempted breach of the Biden-Harris campaign, part of what officials portrayed as a brazen and aggressive effort to interfere in American politics.

Wray declined to talk about any specific investigation or threat but said investigations into cyberattacks,

including against election infrastructure, candidates or campaigns, require help from the private sector.

"One of the things that we have been doubling down on with every passing day is, is on partnerships, because ultimately you're talking about the ability to connect the dots, whether it's against some kind of election influence threat or some other kind of threat," Wray said. "You need to have partners sharing information with each other to put the two pieces together to see the bigger picture."

Law enforcement officers are being killed in the line of duty at a rate of about one every five days, Wray said, noting that four first responders have died in Minnesota alone in 2024. They include a Minneapolis officer killed in May while trying to help someone, and two officers and a paramedic who died in Burnsville in February when a heavily armed man opened fire. Such violence "breaks my heart every single time," the director said.

The FBI has not been spared such attacks: Days after agents searched Donald Trump's Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, to recover clas-

California announces new deal with tech to fund journalism, AI research

By TRÂN NGUYỄN

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California will be the first U.S. state to direct millions of dollars from taxpayer money and tech companies to help pay for journalism and AI research under a new deal announced Wednesday.

Under the first-in-the-nation agreement, the state and tech companies would collectively pay roughly \$250 million over five years to support California-based news organizations and create an AI research program. The initiatives are set to kick in 2025 with \$100

million the first year, and the majority of the money would go to news organizations, said Democratic Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, who brokered the deal.

"This agreement represents a major breakthrough in ensuring the survival of newsrooms and bolstering local journalism across California leveraging substantial tech industry resources without imposing new taxes on Californians," Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement. "The deal not only provides funding to support hundreds of new journalists but helps rebuild

a robust and dynamic California press corps for years to come, reinforcing the vital role of journalism in our democracy."

Wicks' office didn't immediately answer questions about specifics on how much funding would come from the state, which news organizations would be eligible and how much money would go to the AI research program.

The deal effectively marks the end of a yearlong fight between tech giants and lawmakers over Wicks' proposal to require companies like Google, Facebook and Microsoft to pay a certain

percentage of advertising revenue to media com-

panies for linking to their content.



Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks, D-Oakland, smiles after measure that would force Big Tech companies to pay media outlets for using their news content was approved by the Assembly at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., Thursday, June 1, 2023.

Associated Press

U.S. government indicts Guatemalan suspect on smuggling charges over deaths of 53 migrants in trailer

By SONIA PÉREZ D. and JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press

A suspect arrested in Guatemala has been charged with helping coordinate the 2022 smuggling attempt that ended in the deaths of 53 migrants in Texas, the Justice Department announced Thursday, marking what U.S. officials called a significant expansion of their investigation into the horrific discovery inside an abandoned tractor-trailer on a back road.

U.S. authorities they will seek the extradition of Rigoberto Román Miranda Orozco, who is charged with six counts of migrant smuggling resulting in death or serious injury in the deadliest human smuggling attempt across the U.S.-Mexico border. Authorities alleged he can be connected to four Guatemalan migrants in the trailer, three of whom died, and faces up to life in prison if convicted.

"We will pursue you, whether you are hiding in the United States or you're hiding elsewhere," U.S. Attorney Jaime Esparza said at a news conference in San Antonio.

Miranda Orozco, 47, is the first person arrested out-



Rigoberto Roman Miranda Orozco, the ringleader of various Guatemalans accused of having smuggled 53 migrants from Mexico and Central America who died of asphyxiation in 2022 in Texas, sits in a cell at a courtroom in Guatemala City, Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024.

Associated Press

side of the country to face charges in the U.S. in connection with the investigation. Esparza said seven people have been arrested in the U.S. Guatemalan officials announced the arrests of Miranda Orozco and six more people accused of helping smuggle the migrants Wednesday. Of those, only Miranda Orozco faces extradition to the U.S. and the others will

be tried in Guatemala, Esparza said.

Carlos Merida, a lawyer for Miranda Orozco in Guatemala, said his client did not accept the charges, instead saying he was a regular citizen "who was a migrant in the north (U.S.) for 15 years."

Those who were charged previously include Homero Zamorano Jr., who authorities say drove the truck,

and Christian Martinez. Both are from Texas and were arrested shortly after the migrants were found. Martinez has since pleaded guilty to smuggling-related charges, while Zamorano pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial.

Four Mexican nationals were also arrested in 2023. Authorities say the men were aware that the trailer's air-conditioning unit

was malfunctioning and would not blow cool air to the migrants trapped inside during the sweltering, three-hour ride from the border city of Laredo to San Antonio. Temperatures reached 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) while migrants screamed and banged the walls of the trailer for help or tried to claw their way out, investigators said.

According to the indictment against Miranda Orozco that was unsealed Wednesday, the smugglers had forced the migrants to give up their cellphones before getting inside the trailer, leaving them no way to call for help. An unknown powder was spread around the trailer to prevent the smell of human cargo from being detected by patrol dogs at border inspection stations.

When the trailer was opened in San Antonio, 48 migrants were already dead. Another 16 were taken to hospitals, where five more died. The dead included 27 people from Mexico, 14 from Honduras, seven from Guatemala and two from El Salvador. President Joe Biden called the tragedy "horrifying and heartbreaking." □

Pharmacist pleads no contest to involuntary manslaughter in Michigan deaths from meningitis outbreak

By ED WHITE
Associated Press

A Massachusetts pharmacist pleaded no contest



Michigan Assistant Attorney General Shawn Ryan speaks in court, as pharmacist Glenn Chin, is seated, far left, in Howell, Mich., Friday, May 17, 2024.

Associated Press

Thursday to involuntary manslaughter in the deaths of 11 people in Michigan, all victims of tainted steroids that caused a national meningitis outbreak in 2012.

Glenn Chin, 56, will get a 7 1/2-year prison sentence in October, which will be served at the same time as his current, longer sentence for separate federal crimes. "Mr. Chin should not face any further incarceration after his current federal sentence, and an unnecessarily burdensome and lengthy trial has been avoided for the court and the people of the state of Michigan," defense attor-

ney Bill Livingston said.

Michigan has been the only state to prosecute Chin and his boss, Barry Cadden, for deaths related to the scandal. Cadden, too, pleaded no contest to involuntary manslaughter earlier this year. Second-degree murder charges for both men were dropped.

New England Compounding Center in Framingham, Massachusetts, shipped steroids for pain relief to clinics across the country. Investigators said the lab was rife with mold, insects and cracks. Chin supervised production.

More than 700 people in 20 states were sickened with

fungal meningitis or other debilitating illnesses, and dozens died, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Chin is currently serving a 10 1/2-year federal sentence for racketeering, fraud and other crimes connected to the outbreak, following a 2017 trial in Boston.

Cadden, 57, pleaded no contest to involuntary manslaughter in Michigan earlier this year and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Cadden's state sentence is running at the same time as his 14 1/2-year federal sentence, and he has been getting credit for time in custody since 2018. □

French destroyer rescues 29 mariners from oil tanker stricken in Red Sea attacks by Yemen rebels

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

(AP) — A French destroyer rescued 29 mariners from an oil tanker that came under repeated attack in the Red Sea by Yemen's Houthi rebels, officials said Thursday, while also destroying a bomb-carrying drone boat in the area.

The assault on the Sounion, the most serious in the Red Sea in weeks, comes during a monthslong campaign by the Houthis targeting ships over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip that has disrupted a trade route through which \$1 trillion in cargo typically passes each year.

The Sounion is now at anchor in the Red Sea and no longer drifting, the European Union's Operation Aspides said. The vessel had been staffed by a crew of 25 Filipinos and Russians, as well as four private security personnel, who have been taken to nearby Djibouti, the EU mission in the Red Sea said.

The Sounion has 150,000 tons of crude oil aboard



The Greek-flagged oil tanker Sounion is seen heading into the Finnart Ocean Terminal in the United Kingdom on Nov. 29, 2017.

and represents a "navigational and environmental hazard," the mission warned.

"It is essential that everyone in the area exercises caution and refrains from any actions that could lead to a deterioration of the current situation."

Military officials did not name the French destroyer

involved in the rescue. The Sounion also had not asked for an escort prior to the attacks, the EU mission said. The French military separately released an image of the Sounion, showing the blaze on board had been extinguished. It also published an image of its fire targeting the drone boat as well.

Associated Press

Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree claimed the attack in a prerecorded statement late Thursday night, as well as another attempted attack Wednesday.

"The ship was accurately and directly hit while sailing in the Red Sea and is at risk of sinking, thanks to God," he said.

In the attack on the Sounion, men on small boats first opened fire with small arms about 140 kilometers (90 miles) west of the rebel-held Yemeni port city of Hodeida, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. Private security on board the tanker returned fire.

Four projectiles also hit the ship, it added. It wasn't immediately clear if that meant drones or missiles.

U.S. airstrikes in Hodeida meanwhile destroyed a Houthi surface-to-air missile and radar system Wednesday, the American military's Central Command said.

The Houthis have targeted more than 80 vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sank two in the campaign that also killed four sailors.

Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a U.S.-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets. □

The Taliban publish vice laws that ban women's voices and bare faces in public

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have issued a ban on women's voices and bare faces in public under new laws approved by the supreme leader in efforts to combat vice and promote virtue.

The laws were issued Wednesday after they were approved by supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, a government spokesman said. The Taliban had set up a ministry for the "propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice" after seizing power in 2021.

The ministry published its vice and virtue laws on Wednesday that cover aspects of everyday life like public transportation, music, shaving and celebrations.

They are set out in a 114-

page, 35-article document seen by The Associated Press and are the first formal declaration of vice and virtue laws in Afghanistan since the takeover.

"Inshallah we assure you that this Islamic law will be of great help in the promotion of virtue and the elimination of vice," said ministry spokesman Maulvi Abdul Ghafar Farooq on Thursday.

The laws empower the ministry to be at the frontline of regulating personal conduct, administering punishments like warnings or arrest if enforcers allege that Afghans have broken the laws.

Article 13 relates to women. It says it is mandatory for a woman to veil her body at all times in public and that a face covering is essential

to avoid temptation and tempting others. Clothing should not be thin, tight or short.

Women are obliged to cover themselves in front of non-Muslim males and fe-

males to avoid being corrupted. A woman's voice is deemed intimate and so should not be heard singing, reciting, or reading aloud in public. It is forbidden for women to look at

men they are not related to by blood or marriage and vice versa.

Article 17 bans the publication of images of living beings, threatening an already fragile Afghan media landscape.

Article 19 bans the playing of music, the transportation of solo female travelers, and the mixing of men and women who are not related to each other. The law also obliges passengers and drivers to perform prayers at designated times. According to the ministry website, the promotion of virtue includes prayer, aligning the character and behavior of Muslims with Islamic law, encouraging women to wear hijab, and inviting people to comply with the five pillars of Islam. □



Taliban fighters celebrate the third anniversary of the withdrawal of US-led troops from Afghanistan, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024.

Associated Press

Haiti arrests a suspect in the May killings of a U.S. missionary couple and a nonprofit chief

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Police in Haiti have arrested a suspect in the fatal shooting of a U.S. missionary couple and a Haitian man who headed a nonprofit in an attack by gunmen earlier this year that stunned many in the troubled Caribbean country.

The May 23 killings of missionaries Davy Lloyd and his wife, Natalie Lloyd, and Jude Montis, the country's director for Missions in Haiti Inc., a Claremore, Oklahoma organization, was blamed on gangs rampaging across Haiti's capital and beyond.

The killings took place in the community of Lizon, in northern Port-au-Prince. The city has crumbled under the relentless violence of gangs that control as much as 80% of the Haitian capital.

A video posted on social media late Wednesday by Haiti's National Police shows a 52-year-old man in handcuffs, accused of being involved in the killings of the Lloyds and Montis.

Arrests in high-profile killings are very rare in Haiti. In the video, the suspect denies



A funeral procession for mission director Judes Montis, killed by gangs alongside two of his U.S. missionary members, makes its way to the cemetery after his funeral ceremony in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, May 28, 2024.

Associated Press

any involvement in the killings. It wasn't immediately clear if the man has been charged and if he has a lawyer.

Police claim the suspect's phone was used to make calls after the killings, but the man rejected that accusation.

David Lloyd, the father of Davy Lloyd, told The Associated Press over the phone

from Oklahoma on Thursday that he wasn't aware of the circumstances behind the suspect's arrest.

The young couple Davy was 23 and Natalie just 21 were supposed to celebrate their two-year wedding anniversary in June.

"They loved the Haitian people and were dedicated to that country," Lloyd said of his son and daughter-in-law.

Natalie Lloyd was the daughter of Missouri state Rep. Ben Baker, who was cautiously optimistic over the news about the arrest and said he hopes that all those "responsible face the consequences."

"We want justice for what took place," Baker told the AP.

David Lloyd said his son

had called him the night of the attack, to tell him that gangs had forced them to open the mission gates and looted the compound before he abruptly hung up. He said his son and others came under gunfire before the gang broke into the home and killed them.

They later set the house on fire, Lloyd said, adding that more than about 100 gang members were believed to have participated in the attack.

The mission compound has since closed, the first time in 26 years, and the children the mission served relocated to a safer community.

"There are too many gangs in the area," he said. "The country as a whole seems hopeless."

From January to May, more than 3,200 killings were reported across Haiti, with gang violence leaving more than half a million people homeless, according to the United Nations. In February, gangs launched coordinated attacks on key government infrastructure, raided police stations and opened fire at the main international airport, forcing it to shut down for nearly three months. □

Venezuela's Supreme Court certifies Maduro's claims that he won presidential election

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela's Supreme Court has backed President Nicolas Maduro's claims that he won last month's presidential election and said voting tallies published online showing he lost by a landslide were forged.

The ruling is the latest attempt by Maduro to blunt protests and international criticism that erupted after the contested July 28 vote in which the self-proclaimed socialist leader was seeking a third, six-year term.

The high court is packed with Maduro loyalists and has almost never ruled against the government. Its decision, read Thursday in an event attended by

senior officials and foreign diplomats, came in response a request by Maduro to review vote totals showing he had won by

more than 1 million votes. The main opposition coalition has accused Maduro of trying to steal the vote. Thanks to a superb ground



Supreme Court President Carysia Rodriguez speaks at the Court which is performing an audit of the disputed results of the presidential election in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024.

Associated Press

game on election day, opposition volunteers managed to collect copies of voting tallies from 80% of the 30,000 polling booths nationwide and which show opposition candidate Edmundo González won by a more than 2-to-1 margin. The official tally sheets printed by each voting machine carry a QR code that make it easy for anyone to verify the results and are almost impossible to replicate. The high court's ruling certifying the results contradicts the findings of experts from the United Nations and the Carter Center who were invited to observe the election and which both determined the results announced by

authorities lacked credibility. Specifically, the outside experts noted that authorities didn't release a breakdown of results by each of the 30,000 voting booths nationwide, as they have in almost every previous election. The government has claimed without evidence that a foreign cyberattack staged by hackers from North Macedonia delayed the vote counting on election night and publication of the disaggregated results.

González was the only one of 10 candidates who did not participate in the Supreme Court's audit, a fact noted by the justices, who in their ruling accused him of trying to spread panic. □

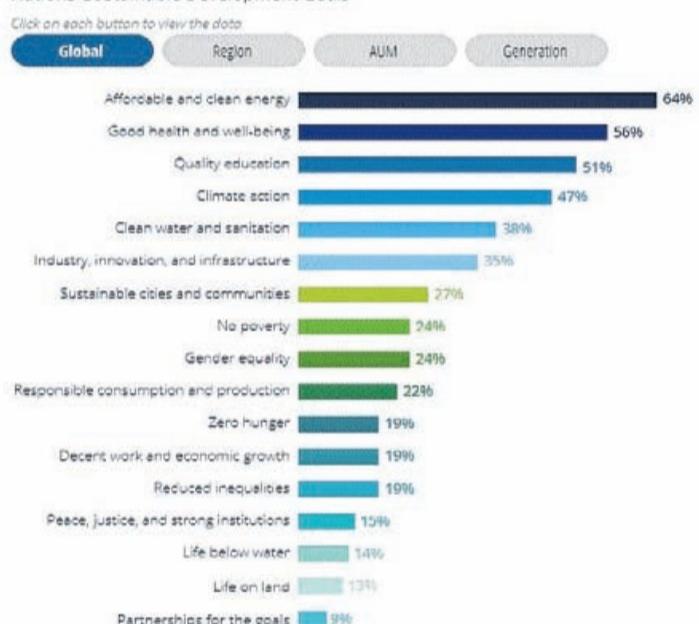
Simon Waslander

The Sharpe-Adjusted Altruistic Innovation Portfolio

The holy grail of investing has always surrounded around the concept of the sharp-adjusted portfolio, a theoretical portfolio of assets that maximizes the amount of gain relative to the risk taken. In this article, we seek to introduce the concept of the altruistic sharp-adjusted innovation portfolio in which we will explain how the mobilization of existing capital pools that are already present and in combination with Parotopian goal alignment can lead to a radically more positive World in which we create large potential benefits for all of Humanity on the way to a "Radical Abundance Society".

Existing Wealth & Distribution

Figure 14: The sustainable areas family offices invest in based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals



Wealth distribution has always been a contested topic in various parts of human history. At the moment the top 1% of the wealthiest individuals control more than 50% of all Global assets this is obviously a distribution that is not beneficial to society at Large at the moment there are hundreds of trillions of dollars in capital according to a UBS wealth report in 2024 which are in the hands of a few very wealthy individuals Imagine if this estimated \$213 trillion US dollars were to be mobilized in projects that possess a combination of high return on investment for the investing party but also most importantly aspects of pro-social altruistic goals that benefit society at large. In

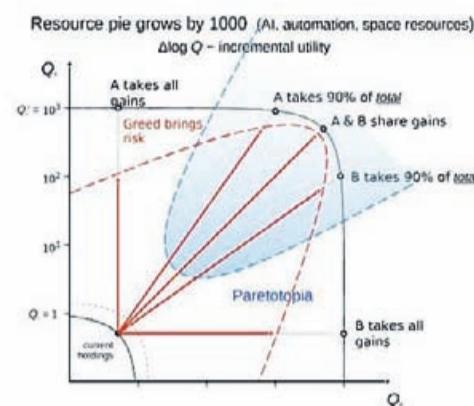
my humble view and estimation this combination of a high return on investment while fulfilling pro-social altruistic goals is quite possible and is achievable at this very moment.

Use Existing Wealth Pools for Altruistic High-Roll Projects

According to a recent report by Deloitte in 2024 where they looked at Family offices of various ultra-high Network individuals, we see these parties already looking towards goals of Affordable Clean Energy Health, Welfare and the Reduction of Poverty, Sustainable Communities, and Quality and Education among the main investment targets mentioned

Interconnectedness of SDGs

What is missing is a coordinated and concerted



effort by both public and private investment parties, and in combination with advanced analytical tools in which we deduce what will be the best investments both in the immediate term but also in the longer-term and what trade-offs will be made to fulfill the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The interconnectedness, trade-offs, return-on-investment and potential advantages for society, our ecosystem

and the economy are far too complex for even the most trained mind however together with advanced data visualization tools artificial intelligence, and teams of both public researchers and private market stakeholders we can create a model for an altruistic sharp-ratio adjusted innovation portfolio. Providing both investment return and large societal benefits both in the immediate term and in the long-term structural way through positive spill-over effects.

Goal: Radical Abundance & Paretopian Goal Alignment

The huge underlying imperative should be the creation of a society where resource scarcity as we currently know it is completely eliminated. While at the same time fulfilling short-term goals of direct impact on human lives and our ecosystems. Calculations and analysis by Oxford researcher Eric Drexler show that in a society where resources are amplified by over a factor thousand which he terms the "Radical Abundance Society", there will be a relative Paretopian goal alignment for all stakeholders and players within such a society. In short, within this context, it will cease to be beneficial to hoard material possessions and not invest in altruistic goals.

But before we reach such a relatively utopian scenario we should put immediate efforts towards the calculation and creation of the "Sharp-Adjusted Innovation Portfolio" □

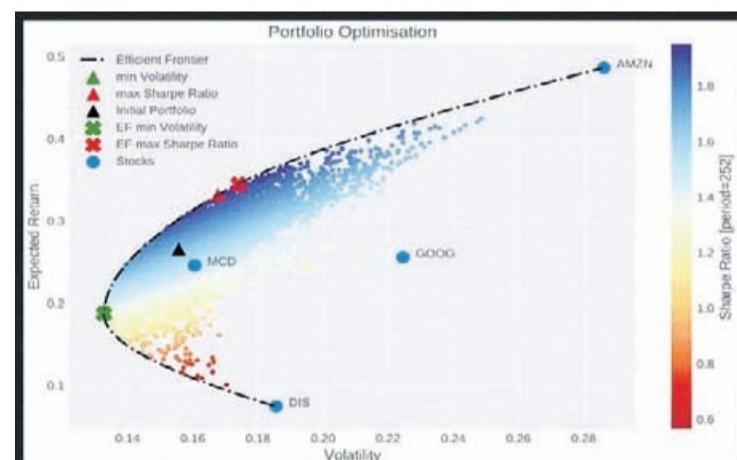


Figure 7: Family offices' top three investment priorities for 2024



The Top 10 Family Of Trends, 2024 | The Family Office Insights Series - Global Edition



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A guide for the perfect picture

Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

"I LOVE ARUBA"

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, espe-

cially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!

The sitting bull

Yes, you read that right; right in the heart of the city center, in front of the Crystal Casino in the Renaissance Mall, there is a black bull sitting on a bench, waiting for you

to take a picture with it. Ok, so it's not a real bull, but "I took a picture with a sitting bull" sounds like a great conversation opener.

See if you can also spot the cow on the roof!

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas!□

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 Coming Soon: Moments & Memories Jewelry,
 Treasure Cove, and El Patio Tacos & Tequila

Forgotten gems Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theatres. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This



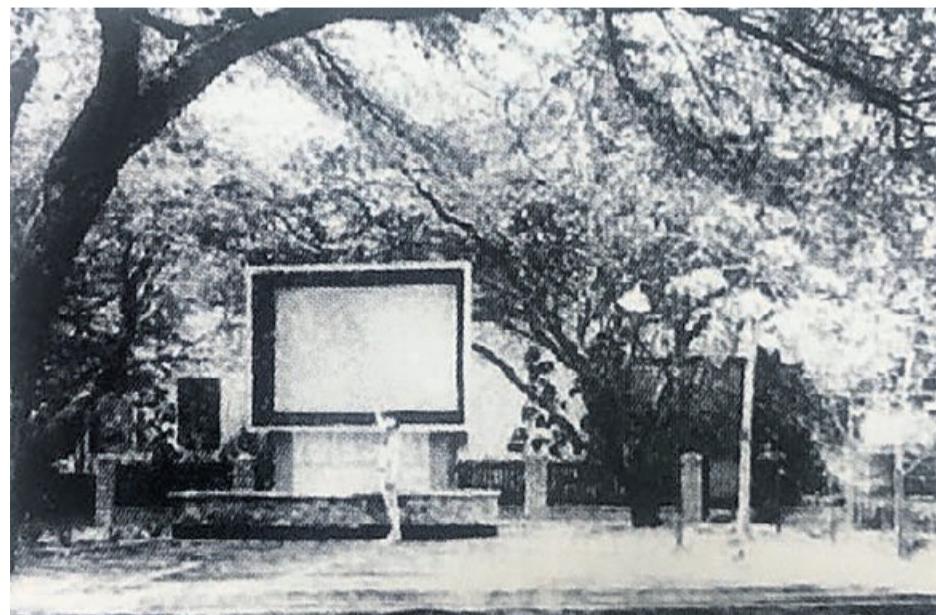
theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic

form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi.

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.



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The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their cul-

ture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to. It wasn’t until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi’s stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants! How Nanzi fooled the king One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn’t think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king’s quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king’s throne, and put on his crown that was hanging

on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn’t long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king’s throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold. “Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi’s head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won’t get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it out-



side and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by? “Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It’s very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you’ve never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi’s word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I’ll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn’t waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder’s hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored

him, thinking it was Nanzi. Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren’t you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king’s thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei’s belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □



Aruba to me

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In celebrating 200 years of Oranjestad...

Learn about the history of the famous town hall!

(Oranjestad)—If you've ever taken a stroll through main street Oranjestad, you may have stumbled upon a big green house with beautiful colonial design. This legendary house, now used as a town hall for civil marriages, was once owned by a wealthy doctor and formed part of the elite neighborhood in Oranjestad.

Jacobo Eloy Arends was an Aruban physician, and he lived in Oranjestad during the 1920s. In 1922, he married Maria Monica Lacle, the daughter of well-known business man at the time, Adriaan Lacle. The two lived a posh life in the city center, and their mansion—once the center for neighborhood parties—now serves as a public town hall for civil marriages and is a cultural monument on the island.

The house was designed by architect Chibi Wever, and constructed under the leadership of famous master carpenter, Dada Picus, who was famous at the



time for his construction of beautiful buildings.

The construction of the house started once Jacobo and Maria got engaged. It is said that during the time of construction, Maria was not allowed to see the building nor be anywhere near the construction site. It wasn't until after her honeymoon that she saw the completed mansion for the first time, furnished entirely

by her sisters-in-law.

The mansion also contained the doctor's office, as well as a pharmacy. After the death of Jacobo, the house was inherited by his son, an Aruban dentist, who converted Jacobo's office into his own dental practice. Over the years, the house was rented and used by third parties, but eventually fell into disrepair, as the maintenance



cost became too high to cover.

The land was sold to Land Aruba in 1986, but it did not see a renovation until 1997. Nowadays, it serves to host weddings, and is attached to a modern building situated behind—the Aruban census office.

Jacobo and Maria's mansion was situated in front of another famous man-

sion, owned by Jacobo's brother Frederico Maximiliaan (Machi) Arends. Frederico was married to Veneranda (whom the mansion was named after). Their house was also constructed by Dada Picus, utilizing Veneranda's design vision that was inspired by a house she saw in Cartagena, Colombia.

Nowadays, this mansion lies in ruins. However, the Aruban government recently announced its official restoration, with plans to convert this monument into a governmental office and public space for visitors of Oranjestad. □



Source and pictures credited to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Western

1 — Major contest
(Sirius setting)

6 May, e.g. 45 Chimney

11 Isolated cleaner

12 Corn-husker city

13 Romantic sort

14 Dance parties

15 Copying

16 Plane seat part

18 Ailing

19 Old hand

20 Use deceit

21 Laments loudly

23 Alternative to buttons

25 Research site

27 Indian honorific

28 Tycoon

30 Spill the beans

33 Brief time

34 Urgent call

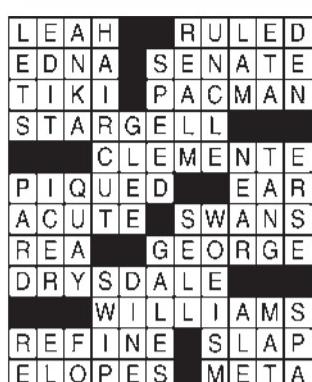
36 Fish eggs

37 Occupies

39 Cow's chew

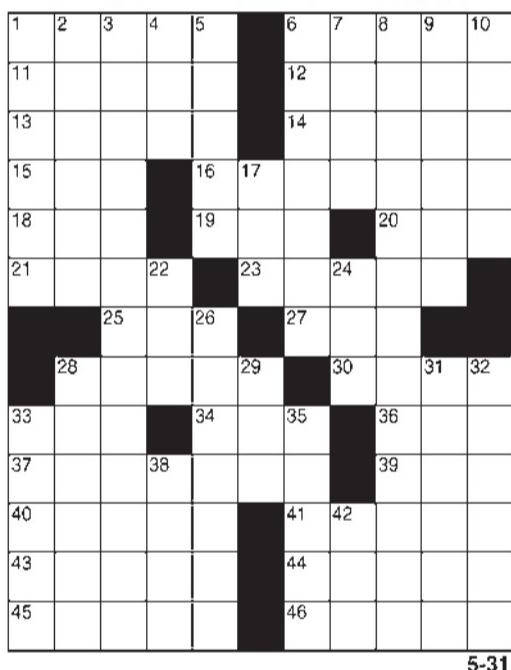
40 Modify

41 Cake coating



Yesterday's answer

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 Channel | 8 Midsection | 28 Grazing |
| city | adorn- | spot |
| 2 God of | ment | 29 Singer |
| light | 9 School | Reed |
| 3 Stopper of | paper | 31 Hotel |
| shipping | 10 Rashness | area |
| 4 Wrath | 17 Reading | 32 Account |
| 5 Satchel | and | book |
| part | others: | 33 Sky |
| 6 Followers | Abbr. | sights |
| of Joseph | 22 Droop | 35 Ill will |
| Smith | 24 Gallery | 38 Foil's |
| 7 General | fill | kin |
| Bradley | 26 Inge play | 42 Spy grp. |



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

YFNDN'W P TSY SG OW SOY

FNDN YFPY PDN JCDHW, APV.

ZN PTT VNNH YS LOWY GTM.

— YDPICW WKSY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A HERO IS SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES WITH HIS FREEDOM. — BOB DYLAN

Cruise ship Schedule: August 27 2024

WED	27	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
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Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

TUE	03	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	DEPT	BERTH
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	B C 1
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C 1
TUE	10	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B C 1
		CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	I 1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C 1
TUE	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B C 1
		CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours



(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Drinking water



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

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Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

FDA approves updated COVID-19 vaccines, shots should be available in days

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. regulators approved updated COVID-19 vaccines on Thursday, shots designed to more closely target recent virus strains and hopefully whatever variants cause trouble this winter, too.

With the Food and Drug Administration's clearance, Pfizer and Moderna are set to begin shipping millions of doses. A third U.S. manufacturer, Novavax, expects its modified vaccine version to be available a little later.

"We strongly encourage those who are eligible to consider receiving an updated COVID-19 vaccine to provide better protection against currently circulating variants," said FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks.

The agency's decision came a bit earlier than last year's rollout of updated COVID-19 vaccines, as a summer wave of the virus continues in most of the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention already has recommended this fall's shot



Pre-loaded syringes of the COVID-19 vaccine are ready for use in New Orleans on Jan. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

for everyone age 6 months and older. Vaccinations could be available within days.

While most Americans have some degree of immunity from prior infections or vaccinations or both, that protection wanes. Last fall's shots targeted a different part of the coronavirus family tree, a strain that's no longer circulating and CDC data shows only about 22.5% of adults and 14% of children received it.

Skipping the new shot is "a hazardous way to go," because even if your last infection was mild, your next might be worse or leave you with long COVID symptoms, said Dr. Robert Hopkins Jr. of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. This fall's vaccine recipe is tailored to a newer branch of omicron descendants. The Pfizer and Moderna shots target a subtype called KP.2 that was common earlier

this year. While additional offshoots, particularly KP.3.1.1, now are spreading, they're closely enough related that the vaccines promise cross-protection. A Pfizer spokesman said the company submitted data to FDA showing its updated vaccine "generates a substantially improved response" against multiple virus subtypes compared to last fall's vaccine.

The big question: How soon to get vaccinated? This summer's wave of COVID-19 isn't over but the inevitable winter surges tend to be worse. And while COVID-19 vaccines do a good job preventing severe disease, hospitalization and death, protection against mild infection lasts only a few months. People who are at high risk from the virus shouldn't wait but instead schedule vaccinations once shots are available in their area, Hopkins advised.□



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Photo: AP

Movie Review: Style triumphs over logic in Zoë Kravitz's great-looking but vexing 'Blink Twice'

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

"Love means never having to say you're sorry," somebody once famously said in the movies. It made utterly no sense in 1970, but even less so now. In recent decades, the apology has become all the rage.

So at the beginning of Zoë Kravitz's "Blink Twice," when her tech-mogul protagonist, Slater King, sits on a TV couch and says "I'm sorry" for some unexplained transgression, well, it's a familiar scene. Pick your offender, pick your year: Famous person issues ritual apology, gets off grid for a bit (in this case, a remote island with chickens) and returns, presumably forgiven. We've seen it all before.

Not that it isn't fun to watch here especially because Channing Tatum is so delightfully, charmingly smarmy in the role. "Blink Twice" is a big swing for him as an actor and even a bigger one for Kravitz, his life partner, as director and co-writer of this stylish, ambitious, buzzy film that seems to aspire to be a gender-themed "Get Out," or a #MeToo-era thriller with echoes of "Promising Young Woman."



This image released by Amazon/MGM Studios shows Channing Tatum and Naomi Ackie in a scene from "Blink Twice."

And Kravitz almost pulls it off. With the help of a terrific cast, she offers strikingly confident, brashly entertaining filmmaking, until everything seems to break down in a mess of porous storytelling. It's not the sudden intrusion of gore that's the issue this is a horror film, duh. It's the sudden departure of logic. Perhaps you won't be able to turn away but, unlike in Jordan Peele's or Emerald Fennell's above-mentioned

films, you won't necessarily be able to explain what you saw, either.

But it sure is crackling fun, until it isn't which is a pretty apt way to describe the experience that Frida (Naomi Ackie, excellent) has. A cocktail waitress who designs nail art, Frida lives in a rundown apartment with roommate Jess (Alia Shawkat). When the two get a waitressing gig at a fundraiser, they cleverly plot to change into slinky

dresses midway so they can mingle with wealthy guests.

Turns out, it's a fundraiser for Slater's firm, and when Frida trips, it's the billionaire himself who helps her up. He introduces her to his friends, and soon, Frida and Jess can't believe their luck they're on Slater's plane, en route to his very own Fantasy Island.

The water is sparkling. The champagne is, too. Frida and Jess' closets are filled

Associated Press

with resort wear in stylish white, matching those given the other female guests: the flaky and/or stoned Camilla and Heather, and hard-nosed, sharp-elbowed Sarah, who has eyes on Slater and thus daggers out for Frida. (Adria Arjona's Sarah is easily the most compelling performance of the movie.)

The food, prepared by Slater's buddy Cody (Simon Rex), is impeccable. (His other pals are played by Christian Slater, Haley Joel Osment and Levon Hawke, and his therapist by Kyle MacLachlan.) Alcohol is plentiful, sheets are soft, and there's drugs, too to be used "with intention," according to Slater, whatever that means. Days are long, nights are longer, and soon nobody knows what day it is anyway.

But why is that, exactly? Well, all phones were confiscated upon arrival by Stacy, Slater's ditzy assistant Geena Davis, a hoot but somewhat underused (and one should never underuse Geena Davis). But something deeper seems at play. We're trying to avoid spoilers, but as Jess tells Frida, "There is something wrong with this place." □

FS1 announces 2 new morning shows following departure of Skip Bayless on 'Undisputed'



From left, television commentators LeSean McCoy, Joy Taylor and Emmanuel Acho before an NCAA college football game Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, in Boulder, Colo.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A pair of shows will take over the weekday morning timeslot on FS1 formerly occupied by Skip Bayless of "Undisputed."

Most of the time slot will be taken over by "The Facility," which will feature former NFL players Emmanuel Acho, LeSean McCoy, James Jones and Chase Daniel. The show will air for two hours, beginning at 10 a.m. ET on Sept. 3. Acho, McCoy and James previously worked on FS1's afternoon show "Speak," while Daniel is a newcomer to the network.

"Breakfast Ball" will be FS1's latest attempt at an early morning show beginning at 8 a.m. ET. Craig Carton, who's had a FS1 morning show since 2022, will be joined by Fox NFL analyst Mark Schlereth and Danny Parkins, who recently hosted an afternoon radio sports talk show in Chicago.

"Breakfast Ball" will launch on Monday

starting at 12 p.m. ET for the first week because "The Herd with Colin Cowherd" will be on vacation.

"Undisputed" aired Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. ET from September 2016 until Aug. 2, when Bayless announced on social media that he was leaving the show and the network. Ratings for the show had plummeted over the past year after Shannon Sharpe left for ESPN and it went to rotating co-hosts instead of one-on-one debates.

The 72-year old Bayless still has a weekly podcast, but has not announced any future plans.

The afternoon lineup of "The Herd," "First Things First" and "Speak" remain in its same time slots. "Speak," a two-hour program that starts at 5 p.m. ET, will have Keyshawn Johnson and Paul Pierce joining Joy Taylor. □

A 106-loss laughingstock a year ago, the Royals find themselves in a push to make the playoffs

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

J.J. Picollo was sitting in the Royals' dugout hours before a game against the Angels this week, talking about what has been one of the most remarkable turnarounds in major league history. The conversation meandered toward Picollo's wife, Nicole, and the Royals general manager pointed to the upper deck down the third-base line.

"She likes to sit up there," he said with a smile. "She likes to be out with the fans."

Just feigning interest up there, so high above the action?

"Oh no," Picollo said. "It's not like she's bringing a book. She's very into it."

That goes for a lot of people in Kansas City these days. The Royals, who matched a franchise record with 106 losses last season, found themselves with a day off Thursday in the fight for the playoffs. With only 35 games remaining in the regular season, they were 2 1/2 back of Guardians in the AL Central and three games behind the Yankees for the best record in the American League.

Equally as important, they were a full three games ahead of the Red Sox for the last wild-card spot.

It's been a remarkable about-face for an organi-



Kansas City Royals' Vinnie Pasquantino (9) celebrates with teammates after their baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

zation that burned as bright as a Roman candle in 2014 and '15, winning back-to-back AL pennants and its first World Series title in 30 years, then fizzled just as fast. The Royals have not had a winning season in eight years, losing at least 100 games in three of the past six, and were a laughingstock as recently as last year. But as shortstop Bobby Witt Jr., the new face of the franchise, likes to say: "The boys are playin' some ball."

"Once you get past Aug. 1, it's hard not to look at the scoreboard," acknowledged Picollo, who has

pulled all the right strings since taking over for Dayton Moore less than two years ago. "I try not to look at other scores until we get a win, because if we win, we're not losing any ground, and that's the way we've got to look at it. But yeah, as soon as our game ended yesterday, I flipped right over to the Twins game to see them tied up and lose it. So yeah, that's natural. And that's exciting." Picollo didn't break the bank to build a winner. In fact, he barely even took out a loan. The players that have led Kansas City to heights not seen in nearly

a decade were either on the team last year and just needed a little more time to grow or were free-agent signings and trade acquisitions that underscored Picollo's baseball savvy. Start with the rotation. Cole Ragans, who was fifth in the majors with 183 strikeouts in 152 1/3 innings, was picked up in a trade with the Rangers last season. Seth Lugo, who was tied for the big league lead with 14 wins, signed a modest three-year, \$45 million free-agent deal. Michael Wacha signed a similar two-year, \$32 million deal, and is 10-6 with a 3.33 ERA.

Brady Singer has bounced back from a disappointing 2023, and Michael Lorenzen has a 1.99 ERA in four starts since his arrival in a trade last month.

The bullpen has been entirely rebuilt, too. John Schreiber and Kris Bubic have been revelations in relief, while Lucas Erceg has allowed four hits, no runs and struck out 14 in 10 1/3 innings since the Royals acquired him in a trade with Milwaukee.

Picollo has been just as successful filling holes in the lineup. The trade for Paul DeJong from the White Sox late last month barely merited a footnote, but he's hitting .286 with three homers and eight RBIs in 14 games in Kansas City.

"It's given me a lot of life to be able to come here every day and compete with these guys," he said. "They've had their culture all year and they've been doing well, but for me it just makes coming to the ballpark a lot more fun."

Nobody seems to be having more fun than Witt, the 24-year-old wunderkind who is putting together a historic year months after signing an 11-year deal worth \$288.7 million to serve as the cornerstone of the franchise.

Witt leads the majors with a .352 average, nearly 20 points better than the Yankees' Aaron Judge. □

Seattle Mariners fire manager Scott Servais in midst of midseason collapse, according to report

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Mariners reportedly fired manager Scott Servais on Thursday with the team in the midst of a two-month long collapse having blown a 10-game lead in the division and tumbling to the fringes of playoff contention in the American League.

The Athletic reported the decision by the Mariners, citing unnamed sources. The report said former catcher Dan Wilson would be taking over.

The decision to move on from Servais during his ninth season in charge came on the heels of a disastrous 1-8 road trip that dropped the Mariners back to 64-64 after sitting 13 games over .500 at one point in mid-June.

The Mariners trail Houston by five games in the AL West and are 7 1/2 back in the wild-card standings. But nothing in the way Seattle has played since leading the division by 10 games on June 18 has pro-

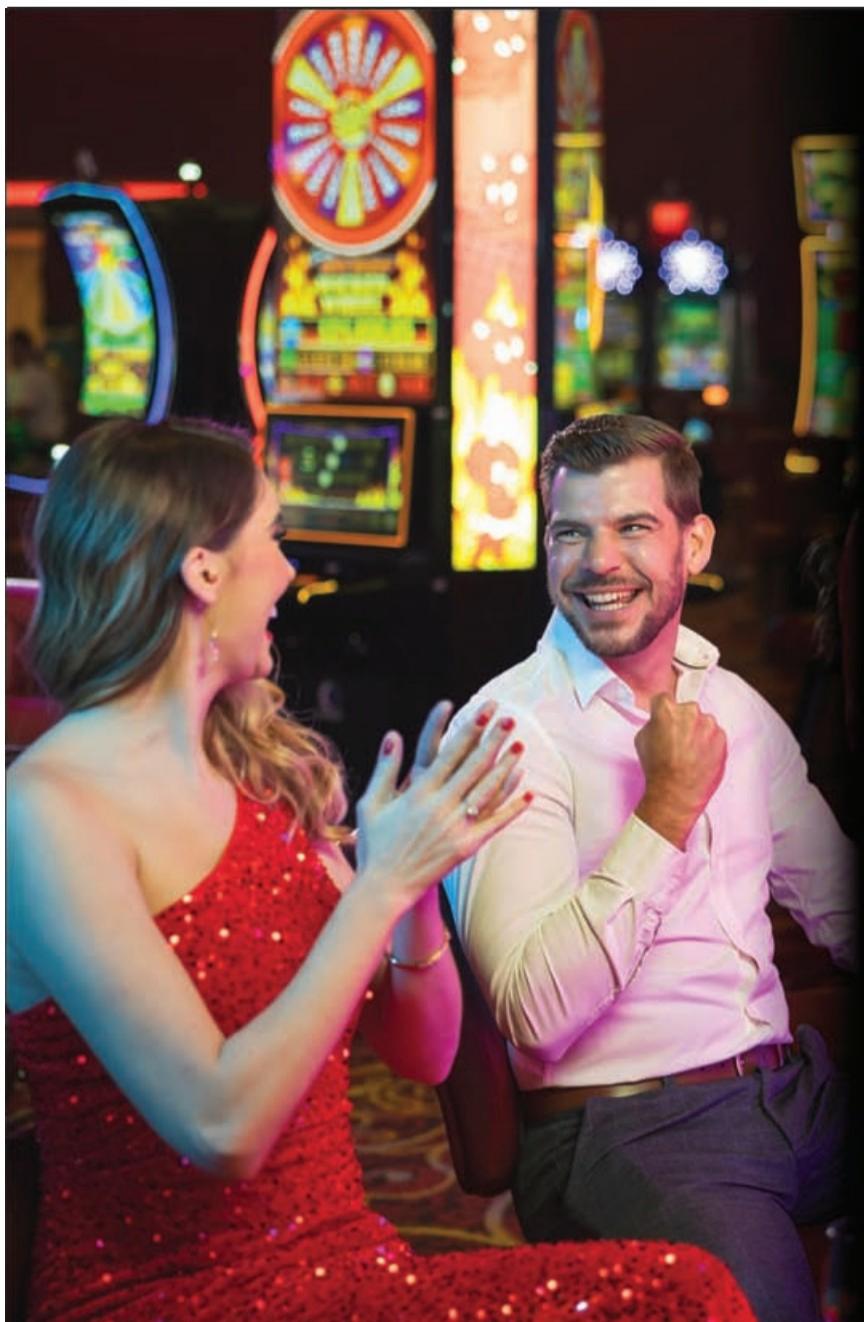
vided optimism there will be a turnaround over the final five weeks of the regular season.

Servais arrived in Seattle before the 2016 season, brought on in lockstep with executive vice president of baseball operations Jerry Dipoto. Servais was 680-642 during his time with Seattle, going through a significant rebuild midway through his tenure that ultimately made the Mariners competitive but not good enough. □



Seattle Mariners' Randy Arozarena (56) celebrates with manager Scott Servais, left, after scoring on a double by Justin Turner during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, in Seattle.

Associated Press



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Receive one (1) raffle ticket for every 300 points /\$150 theoretical win or with every \$150 check at Casa Nonna New York, BLT Steak or Divi Lounge.

WEEKLY PRIZES

6 WINNERS OF \$1,000 CASH 9:00PM - 11:00PM	1 WINNER OF \$1,500 CASH 11:30PM	9 WINNERS OF \$500 SLOT CREDIT 11:00PM - 12:00AM
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The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

**Anticipating the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba
The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba reveals their mega campaign for 2024:
WIN A MERCEDES-BENZ G-CLASS 2024!**

Since 2019 The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba has been known for its thrilling giveaways like the Ferrari giveaway, Mega Win campaigns with the most attractive cash prizes, exotic vacations and many more. This year, as they are preparing for the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba, they are giving away a Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024!

All visitors of The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba have the opportunity to participate to win this amazing car by being or becoming a member of the VIP Club where they can enjoy unique benefits.

Players can start to accumulate points as of April 12th till November 22nd, to receive raffle tickets in order to participate. Players can earn their raffle tickets as follows:

- Every 300 points on slot machines / \$150 of theoretical win on tables = 1 raffle ticket.
- Every check of \$150 at Casa Nonna New York, BLT Steak and Divi Lounge = 1 raffle ticket

There will be 50 finalists competing in the grand finale on November 22nd to be the lucky winner of the

Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024! There are four ways to become a finalist:

- Weekly Drawings (every Saturday with \$12,000 in prizes): selecting 31 finalists
- Golden Key on November 16th: selecting 2 finalists
- Top Player's Race on November 21st: selecting 9 finalists
- Last Chance Drawing on November 22nd: selecting 8 finalists

This campaign has gathered local and international attention as this is the second time that The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba raffles a high-end luxury car in the Caribbean region and gives their players the opportunity to win this unique car.

The Mercedes-Benz G-Class 2024 has a boxy exterior, which is its iconic charm, in addition to making a striking visual statement for its bold black exterior and lavish red interior. Once inside, you will find all the Mercedes-Benz luxury hallmarks, including red leather comfort seats and Burmester surround system which consists of 15 loudspeakers.

You will find everything that you are looking for in a car with this Luxury Wagon: refinement, comfort and performance of a turbo-charged V8 engine. This luxury vehicle offers an unique experience and one player will be the lucky winner on November 22nd.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is very proud to bring this car to the island in anticipation of the grand opening of The St. Regis Aruba, as it reflects the luxury and high quality of The Ritz-Carlton and St. Regis brand.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba offers high quality service and offers a unique and memorable experience. For more participation details of the Luxury Wagon Campaign 2024, please visit The Casino VIP Desk at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba or contact 527-2276/527-2277 and they will be happy to assist you with further details on how to participate and WIN!□